

## Amphibian and Reptile Regulations Frequently Asked Questions

Like all other wildlife species, Indiana's amphibians and reptiles are regulated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

For all regulations relating to amphibians and reptiles visit [www.IN.gov/legislative/iac/title312.html](http://www.IN.gov/legislative/iac/title312.html) and look for Article 9, Rule 5. Rules change periodically, so be sure to check the website for current regulations.

### What can I collect from the wild?

- Indiana residents over the age of 17 must have a valid hunting or fishing license to collect amphibians and reptiles from the wild. **Collection of endangered species and box turtles is prohibited.**
- For all nongame species whose collection is allowed, there is a possession limit of four.
- The common snapping turtle, smooth softshell turtle, spiny softshell turtle, bullfrog and green frog are regulated as game animals with specified methods of take, bag limits and seasons. Game turtles may be taken at anytime. Game frogs may be taken anytime except between April 30 and June 15. The daily bag limit for game frogs or turtles is 25 and the possession limit is 50.

### What am I not allowed to do?

- Collect endangered species and box turtles
- Collect nongame reptiles and amphibians from any DNR property
- Release any amphibian or reptile kept in captivity and collected from Indiana unless it has been held for less than 30 days, has not been housed (caged) with other animals and is released at original site of capture
- Release any amphibian or reptile acquired outside of Indiana
- Sell native amphibians and reptiles (including eggs, larvae, meat, shells and other parts)
  - Bullfrog and green frog tadpoles may be sold by holders of a fish haulers and suppliers license or aquaculture permit if the tadpoles are a by-product of raising fish and if the tadpoles have a tail at least 1 inch long.
  - The young of eight species of native snakes may be sold by holders of a reptile captive breeders license. In addition, albinistic, leucistic and xanthic specimens of Indiana's native species may be sold, as long as they are not collected from the wild.
- Sell any turtle (regardless of species or origin) with a carapace less than 4 inches
- Sell crocodilians five feet or more in length or any venomous reptile

### When do I need a permit?

- The collection of box turtles and their shells from the wild is prohibited. Box turtles and their subspecies, demonstrated to have been acquired before 2005 or legally obtained outside of Indiana may be possessed under a special permit.
- A wild animal possession permit with special housing requirements is required for individuals owning crocodilians five feet or more in length, any venomous reptile obtained lawfully, or an endangered species obtained lawfully.

### I am a teacher, can I collect tadpoles and bring them into my classroom for educational

**purposes?** With a hunting or fishing license, you may collect up to four of any non-endangered species of tadpole. However, it is likely that you will not be able to release them back into the wild (see information on releasing captive animals under "What am I not allowed to do?"). You should be prepared to permanently take care of anything you collect. Wild animals in the classroom create the impression for students that the animals are pets and that it is OK to collect and keep wildlife. We recommend taking your students outdoors to see wildlife or going on field trips to reputable nature centers, zoos, or museum.

### Who is responsible for the management and conservation of Indiana's amphibians and reptiles?

The Wildlife Diversity Section (WDS) is part of the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the Department of Natural Resources. WDS is responsible for over 750 species of nongame and endangered wildlife. Nongame refers to any animal species that is not traditionally pursued through hunting and fishing. In Indiana, nongame species are more than 90% of the state's mammals, birds, fish, mussels, reptiles and amphibians. WDS is funded entirely through donations to the Nongame Fund. You can help Indiana's amphibians and reptiles by looking for the eagle logo and the line provided on your Indiana state tax form to donate all or part of your refund. To donate directly send a check to: Nongame Fund, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W273, Indianapolis, IN 46204.



**For more information, visit [endangeredwildlife.in.gov](http://endangeredwildlife.in.gov) or call 317-232-4080**

# Indiana's Native Reptiles and Amphibians

## FROGS AND TOADS

Eastern spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*)  
 American toad (*Bufo americanus*)  
 Fowler's toad (*Bufo fowleri*)  
 Northern cricket frog (*Acris crepitans*)  
 Cope's gray treefrog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*)  
 Green treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*)  
 Eastern gray treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*)  
 Spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)  
 Southeastern chorus frog (*Pseudacris feriarum*)

Western chorus frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*)  
**Crawfish frog (*Rana areolata*)**  
 Plains leopard frog (*Rana blairi*)  
 Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)  
 Green frog (*Rana clamitans*)  
 Northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*)  
 Pickerel frog (*Rana palustris*)  
 Southern leopard frog (*Rana utricularia*)  
 Wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*)

## SALAMANDERS, NEWTS & SIRENS

**Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*)**  
 Common mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*)  
 Streamside salamander (*Ambystoma barbouri*)  
 Jefferson's salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*)  
 Blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*)  
 Spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*)  
 Marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*)  
 Mole salamander (*Ambystoma talpoideum*)  
 Smallmouth salamander (*Ambystoma texanum*)  
 Eastern tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum*)  
 Eastern newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*)  
**Green salamander (*Aneides aeneus*)**

Northern dusky salamander (*Desmognathus fuscus*)  
 Southern two-lined salamander (*Eurycea cirrigera*)  
 Longtailed salamander (*Eurycea longicauda*)  
 Cave salamander (*Eurycea lucifuga*)  
**Four-toed salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*)**  
 Northern redback salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*)  
 Northern zigzag salamander (*Plethodon dorsalis*)  
 Northern ravine salamander (*Plethodon electromorphus*)  
 Northern slimy salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus*)  
**Red salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber*)**  
 Lesser siren (*Siren intermedia*)

## LIZARDS AND SKINKS

Eastern fence lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*)  
 Slender glass lizard (*Ophisaurus attenuatus*)  
 Six-lined racerunner (*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*)

Five-lined skink (*Eumeces fasciatus*)  
 Broadhead skink (*Eumeces laticeps*)  
 Ground skink (*Scincella lateralis*)

## SNAKES

Eastern worm snake (*Carphophis amoenus*)  
**Scarlet snake (*Cemophora coccinea*)**  
 Racer (*Coluber constrictor*)  
**Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*)**  
 Ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus*)  
 Midland (black) rat snake (*Elaphe spiloides*)  
 Western rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta*)  
 Western fox snake (*Elaphe vulpina*)  
**Mud snake (*Farancia abacura*)**  
 Eastern hognose snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*)  
 Prairie kingsnake (*Lampropeltis calligaster calligaster*)  
 Black kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula nigra*)  
 Eastern milk snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum*)  
 Red milk snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum sypila*)  
**Copperbelly water snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster*)<sup>1</sup>**  
 Diamondback water snake (*Nerodia rhombifer*)  
 Northern water snake (*Nerodia sipedon*)

Rough green snake (*Opheodrys aestivus*)  
**Smooth green snake (*Opheodrys vernalis*)**  
 Bull snake (*Pituophis catenifer sayi*)  
 Queen snake (*Regina septemvittata*)  
 Brown snake (*Storeria dekayi*)  
 Red-bellied snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata*)  
**Southeastern crowned snake (*Tantilla coronata*)**  
**Butler's garter snake (*Thamnophis butleri*)**  
 Western ribbon snake (*Thamnophis proximus*)  
 Plains garter snake (*Thamnophis radix*)  
 Eastern ribbon snake (*Thamnophis sauritus*)  
 Common garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*)  
 Smooth earthsnake (*Virginia valeriae*)  
 Northern copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*)  
**Cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*)**  
**Timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*)**  
**Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*)<sup>2</sup>**

## TURTLES

Eastern snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina serpentina*)  
 Smooth softshell turtle (*Apalone mutica*)  
 Spiny softshell turtle (*Apalone spinifera*)  
**Alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*)**  
 Eastern mud turtle (*Kinosternon subrubrum*)  
 Stinkpot turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*)  
 Midland painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta marginata*)  
 Western painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta bellii*)  
**Spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*)**

**Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)**  
 Common map turtle (*Graptemys geographica*)  
 False map turtle (*Graptemys pseudogeographica*)  
 Ouachita map turtle (*Graptemys ouachitensis*)  
 Hieroglyphic river cooter (*Pseudemys concinna*)  
 Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*)  
**Ornate box turtle (*Terrapene ornata*)**  
 Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*)

<sup>1</sup>Federally threatened species in northern Indiana <sup>2</sup>Candidate for Federal listing  
 State endangered species are in bold.